

Common Course Outline

PHIL 103

Critical Thinking

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

PHIL 103 – 3 credits – Critical Thinking offers logical and effective approaches to addressing everyday complexities using logic and critical thinking tools to decipher and understand social, political, moral, philosophical and other forms of reasoning. The course affords students an opportunity to become aware of and develop intellectual skills that build strong reasoning and analytic abilities. Critical thinking describes what constitutes an argument, examines rhetoric and fallacious reasoning as well as the roles that language and culture can play in everyday reasoning. Critical thinking provides the thinking skills necessary to effectively function in a complex global society and provides an understanding of barriers to good reasoning.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 and MATH 081

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. define and differentiate reflective and pre-reflective claims, rational, systematic, and analytic thinking;
2. define knowledge, belief, truth, ethical relativism, and relate cultural and historical interpretations of these concepts;
3. compare and contrast simple and complex arguments;
4. explain the criteria for and demonstrate the ability to evaluate arguments;
5. demonstrate the ability to distinguish between inductive and deductive, sound and unsound, cogent and non-cogent arguments;
6. analyze and explain some of the ethical, sociological and psychological barriers to good reasoning and problem solving as reflected in world culture, historical context, and contemporary thought;
7. identify various common fallacies, explain their meaning, and relate them to selected cultural, ethical, historical and contemporary situations;
8. construct cogent arguments and present them in class discussion and small group activities;
9. explain the phenomena of ego-centrism and socio-centrism and how they affect good reasoning;
10. apply problem solving skills and methods to resolve selected practical problems;
11. employ critical thinking skills in making decisions and aesthetic judgments, and
12. utilize information gathering skills (both technological and non-technological) in the

completion of course assignments, group collaborations, and final paper, and use correct methods of bibliographic citation on submitted work.

Major Topics

- I. Recognizing critical and non-critical thinking and local
- II. Defining and understanding the nature of arguments in critical thinking terms
- III. Investigating psychological, egocentric and socio-centric barriers to effective reasoning
- IV. Evaluating knowledge, belief, and truth and local and global diversity in critical thinking
- V. Identifying and evaluating fallacies
- VI. Constructing, presenting, and evaluating arguments
- VII. Engaging in applications of critical thinking and logic to multifaceted situations, practical and theoretical

Course Requirements

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments and will be determined by the individual faculty member who will administer specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance. These will be described in the course syllabus and will include the following:

Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth at least 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 following General Education Program outcomes:

1. written/oral communication;
2. critical analysis and reasoning;
3. technological competence;
4. information literacy;
5. scientific and quantitative or logical reasoning;
6. local and global diversity; and
7. personal and professional ethics.

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments. These may reflect any combination of the following:

1. a minimum of three exams or a minimum of two exams plus two quizzes consisting of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components.
2. a minimum of two written assignments that allow for analysis of primary and/or secondary sources. Sources may include books, articles, and on-line or electronic media. written assignment(s) must total a minimum of 1000 words.
3. the completion of a research project exploring a philosopher, philosophical theory, or philosophical topic relative to the course topic.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources. Students are required to refrain from plagiarism, using another's work, and comply with the CCBC Student Code of Ethics in managing classroom interactions with faculty and co-learners.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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